



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 4, 2014

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## **Budget and Finance Committee approves cross-commission agreement with Coconino County for the Twin Arrows region**

**WINDOW ROCK** – The Budget and Finance Committee voted 5-0 on Tuesday to approve a cross-commission agreement between the Navajo Nation and Coconino County to allow for greater public safety measures through increased law enforcement presence at the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, located near Interstate-40, approximately 24-miles east of Flagstaff, Ariz.

The intergovernmental agreement will allow the Coconino County Sheriff's Department to enforce Navajo Nation criminal and traffic laws within the 405-acre parcel of land that encompasses the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, which lies within Coconino County.

In his presentation to fellow BFC members, co-sponsor of the legislation Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts'ah Bii Kin) said the agreement is very similar to other cross-commission agreements that the Nation has entered into with McKinley County, San Juan County in New Mexico, Navajo County, San Juan County in Utah, and with Arizona's Department of Public Safety.

Delegate Nez added that he hopes the agreement will soon be expanded to include the rest of the Nation's land that lies within the Coconino County boundaries.

"I am hoping that this will be the next step to cross-commissioning the entire county," said Delegate Nez. "All of the other agreements have been approved for the entire county. So I'm hoping this will be the springboard for making that happen."

Coconino County Supervisor, Lena Fowler represented the county at the committee meeting and extended her appreciation to the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, and the Office of the President and Vice President.

"The [Coconino County] Board of Supervisors has approved the agreement and we look forward to implementing it," Supervisor Fowler stated.

Similar to requirements under previous cross commission agreements, Coconino County Sheriff's Officers will be required to complete a 16-hour training course prior to receiving a "mutual aid law enforcement" certification card to allow the officers to enforce laws on the "Twin Arrows parcel."

The legislation was first considered by the Law and Order Committee on Monday, which referred it to the Budget and Finance Committee with a "do pass" recommendation with no amendments.

Following the BFC meeting on Tuesday, legislation prime sponsor Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii) said the legislation will provide a mechanism for law enforcement officials to handle situations involving “non-Indians” and also allows for increased public safety for all patrons of the casino, adding that the agreement is only in place for 18 months with the option to renew.

BFC members voted 5-0 to approve Legislation No. 0019-14. The Budget and Finance Committee serves as the final authority for the legislation.

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